to Kumarghat has been completed. The proposal would be considered further once gauge conversion of Lumding-Badarpur is nearing completion, depending on operational requirements and availability of resources.

Unsafe Railway Bridges in Kerala

766. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the past five years at least twenty eight railway bridges in Kerala have been identified as unsafe for rail traffic; and

(b) if so, the details of these bridges and steps being taken for their replacement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Raview of Tatkal Services

767. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tatkal Services are effective; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to keep the system transparent to help genuine needy passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) The Tatkal Scheme is patronised. In order to ensure that the accommodation earmarked in Tatkal coach is availed by the bonafide and genuine passengers, railways have taken a number of precautions and safeguards which are as under:—

(i) Reservation under this scheme starts at 8.00 A.M. on the day prior to the day of the journey.

(ii) Reservation under this scheme can be made only on the authority of one of the proofs of identity mentioned in this scheme. The serial number of proof of identity is indicated on the ticket.

(iii) Passenger is required to carry the same proof of identity during the journey on the basis of which he/she has secured the reservation. A mention of this fact is also made on the ticket.

(iv) This proof of identity is checked by ticket checking staff on the train.

(v) No refund is granted on the tickets booked under Tatkal scheme.

Replacement of Agency Appointed for examining rail lines

†768. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a decision has been taken to replace the agency appointed for examining rail lines manufactured in the Bhilai Steel Plant;

(b) if so, by when this replacement is going to take place; and

(c) the details of other norms besides practical experience for the new examining agency, whether prescribed norms are strictly followed, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The transfer of inspection of rails took place on 01.4.2001.

(c) The new agency "Rail India Technical Economic Services" has long experience of inspection of supplies and have inspected rails imported by Indian Railways from different countries. Rails have to be as per Indian Railways specification T-12-1996 with manufacture as per the approved Quality Assurance Programme.

Conversion from NG to BG of Rail Tracks in the Country

†769. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of those rail tracks in the country where conversion from narrow gauge to broad gauge is going on;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.